



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-2016/0197, Debate day 1 November 2016

National college for wind energy

This Debate Pack has been prepared ahead of the debate on the *National college of wind energy* to be held in Westminster Hall on Tuesday 1 November 2016 at 4:30pm to 5:30pm. The Member in charge of this debate is Melanie Onn MP.

This briefing contains recent press and parliamentary material and links to further reading.

David Hough
Christopher Rhodes
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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

Summary

National College for Wind Energy

The National College for Wind Energy (NCWE) was one of seven proposed [employment led colleges announced](#) by the Government in 2014. Funding would be provided in the form of capital grants and scholarship funding. However, in May 2016 [funding was announced](#) by the Government for only five of the seven proposed colleges. The NCWE was not awarded funding, [reportedly](#) this was due to the proposal not being sufficiently mature. However, there has been [ongoing discussions](#) on whether funding could be provided in the future.

Skills shortages in the wind energy sector

The wind energy industry is relatively new and has grown rapidly in recent years (employment in the whole sector grew by 30% between 2010 and 2013).¹

The sector is heavily reliant on employees with science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM) skills. Although overall the UK does not have a shortage of STEM-skilled employees, there are some “acute shortages in specific occupational areas”, including engineering occupations which include many jobs in the wind sector.²

In the whole renewable energy sector in 2014, 37% of firms reported a number of “hard to fill vacancies”.³

In the wind energy sector specifically, a shortfall of 7,000 qualified personnel was reported in Europe in 2013. This figure could rise to 15,000 by 2030 if the number of STEM graduates entering the profession remains at the current rate.⁴

In a Europe-wide survey conducted in 2013, 78% of wind power sector companies reported that they found it difficult or very difficult to recruit suitably qualified staff.⁵

Companies in the wind power industry identified the following obstacles to securing suitably qualified professionals:⁶

- Under-resourced education system
- Too few suitably qualified technical institutions
- Lack of R&D/research funding
- Recruits obtaining skills not applicable to wind industry

¹ Department of Business Innovation and Skills report, [Low-carbon economy: size and performance](#), March 2015

² UK Commission for Employment and Skills, *Reviewing the requirements for high level STEM shortages*,

³ Wind Power, [UK training college will address skills shortfall](#), January 2015

⁴ Wind Platform, [Workers wanted: the EU wind energy sector skills gap](#), August 2013, p 12

⁵ *Ibid*, p 11

⁶ *Ibid*, p 14

Wind energy industry

The following table summarises the wind energy industry in the UK.⁷

Wind energy industry in the UK

2013

	Onshore	Offshore	Total
Employment	19,000	13,700	32,700
Businesses	300	220	520
Economic contribution (£ billions)	1.7	1.0	2.7

Source: BIS, *Low carbon economy size and performance*, 2015

Note: Economic contribution is Gross Value Added (GVA), a measure similar to GDP

In 2013, there were 520 businesses working in the wind energy industry, 300 involved with onshore wind energy and 220 involved with offshore wind energy.

These businesses employed 32,700 people, 58% of these people working in onshore wind energy.

The wind energy sector contributed £2.7 billion to the UK economy.

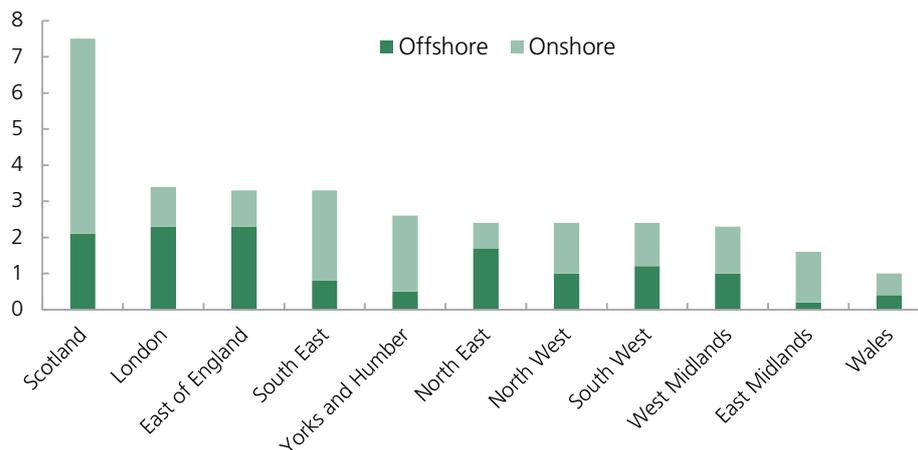
The onshore wind industry has more businesses and employees than the offshore wind energy industry. The economic contribution of the onshore industry is also greater than the economic contribution of the offshore industry.

Employment by region

Employment in the sector is unevenly distributed across Great Britain.

Employment in wind energy industry

Thousands, Great Britain, 2013



The region or country of the Great Britain with the most employees in the wind energy industry is Scotland. A quarter of wind energy employees are based in Scotland, 5,400 in onshore wind and 2,100 in offshore wind.

⁷ These data are from the Department of Business Innovation and Skills report, [Low-carbon economy: size and performance](#), March 2015. The data include businesses, employment and economic contribution of the wind energy sector and its supply chain.

1. Press Articles

Grimsby Telegraph

2 March 2016

[National Humber wind college could be back on the table after MPs summit](#)

Grimsby Telegraph

January 21, 2016

[Pressing case that Humber should be home of offshore wind energy](#)

FE Week

7 December 2015

[Rejected National Colleges plans 'not sufficiently mature'](#)

Grimsby Telegraph

November 3, 2015

[Wind energy college call to rope in skill provision](#)

2. Press releases

Siemens UK plc

26 October 2016

[Siemens launches next major phase of recruitment in Hull](#)

Siemens said well over 90% of employees hired so far live within a 30-mile radius of Hull and 10% of recruits were women, higher than in similar manufacturing and engineering environments where the proportion of female employees is typically below 5%. Siemens also said it hopes to increase this percentage during the remaining phases of recruitment.

Siemens today advertised 140 production operative positions within the packing, finishing and service functions at its site on Hull's Alexandra Dock. New roles for a Finance Manager, Purchasing Manager & LEAN Specialist have also been advertised.

The new positions have been advertised in the Hull Daily Mail, on the Siemens UK website and the Green Port Hull site, as well as being promoted via local job centres and Siemens' social media channels.

Jason Speedy, Siemens' Hull Blade Factory Director, said: "This is our next big recruitment push, with these roles scheduled to be filled from December up to the end of March 2017.

"We're delighted with the amazing team we're assembling and would encourage anyone who would like to come on board, but hasn't yet applied, to take this opportunity.

"We're also pleased to be delivering on our pledge to employ overwhelmingly from the local area and that focus will be maintained as we continue our recruitment."

Siemens has received 22,000 applications for jobs in Hull but the company's Hull Head of Human Resources Carolyn Woolway urged potential applications not to be discouraged by the exceptionally high levels of interest.

She said: "The number of applications and quality of candidates has been excellent and we're aiming to maintain the standard as we continue the recruitment process. We're expecting high demand, but we would urge anybody who feels they fit the requirements of the roles not to be put off from applying.

"We're also really keen to encourage more women to apply for jobs in this latest major intake.

"We have worked hard to attract applications from women in the local area and we have seen the number of female recruits increase as a result of all that we have done to promote the jobs as being relevant to both male and female candidates."

Siemens is at the forefront of industry efforts to address the acute shortage of workers with technical and engineering skills and to attract more women into manufacturing and engineering.

Siemens is focused on inspiring young people from primary school age upwards to focus on science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) courses and potential careers. Siemens works extensively with schools and education institutions through the Curiosity Project, which is the company's major programme in the UK to bring STEM skills to life.

With partner Associated British Ports (ABP), Siemens is investing £310m in Hull to create a world-class and world-scale centre for offshore wind manufacturing, assembly and logistics in Hull's largest ever inward investment.

The centerpiece of the investment, the wind turbine blade factory, is now partly operational with further production areas coming on stream by the end of the year. Development of the full Alexandra Dock site, including a new harbour for pre-assembly and load out of wind turbine components, will continue into 2017.

Around 650 people have now been employed by Siemens in Hull or will join the company within the next few weeks, with more due to be employed in roles where recruitment is already in progress.

The vast majority of the workforce on site will be employed directly by Siemens and will be supported by permanent staff working on site for contractors in roles such as catering, security, maintenance and landscaping. Hundreds of further jobs have been created during construction and in the supply chain.

Further information about the Siemens Hull project is available at <http://siemens.co.uk/hull>

Siemens UK

3 June 2016

[Planning consent granted for Siemens' Hull wind turbine blade factory and associated facilities](#)

The [Hull Planning] committee gave consent, subject to conditions on technical details, for the development on Hull's Alexandra Dock. Two related applications for the site were well received on consultation, attracting positive responses to the proposals.

Planning approval was granted for:

- Construction of a 39,600sqm factory at the western side of Alexandra Dock for the manufacture of 75m turbine blades and the assembly, maintenance, storage and distribution of wind turbine components.
- Office accommodation and welfare facilities.
- Development of open and covered areas for the storage, handling, assembly and testing of wind turbine components.
- Construction of a 12,300sqm building at the south east corner of the site for the ongoing service and maintenance of wind turbines and storage of parts and equipment required in pre-assembly phases.

- Service areas and ancillary facilities, infrastructure, including parking, and landscaping.

Planning permission was granted under reserved matters further to the Port of Hull Local Development Order (LDO), which was adopted in 2012 to assist in attracting renewable energy businesses to the port area within the Humber Enterprise Zone. This now means that the entire Siemens development has full planning approval.

The Alexandra Dock site is 540,000sqm, the equivalent of 78 football pitches. Development of the site will also include:

- The partial infill of Alexandra Dock to provide additional storage areas.
- A new quay for loading of part-assembled turbines for shipping to offshore wind farms.
- Roll-on, roll-off ramps for the unloading of wind turbine components.

Siemens Hull development

With partner Associated British Ports (ABP), Siemens is investing £310m in the Hull project – the city’s biggest ever inward investment.

Today’s approval for two related planning applications follows a Siemens decision last November to bring together buildings previously earmarked for Alexandra Dock and nearby Paull onto a single site. Siemens’ continuing research led to a more efficient factory design for the manufacture of its turbine blades, thereby enabling the facility to be accommodated at Alexandra Dock.

Siemens’ Hull Project Director Finbarr Dowling said:

“We are delighted our revised proposals have been granted planning permission and the development of Alexandra Dock is now fully consented.

“We would like to thank members of the planning committee, and Hull City Council generally, for their support. The planning process has been very professionally managed, with excellent and proactive engagement between Siemens, ABP, the local authority and a wide range of statutory consultees and interested parties.

“We would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the tremendous backing we have received from the local community, which reflects the highly supportive environment we have experienced in Hull since announcing our investment proposals.”

The facilities at Alexandra Dock will create 1,000 jobs directly, with more during construction and in the supply chain, and stimulate further investment and economic growth. Siemens has already begun hiring for jobs based in Hull, with recruitment continuing through 2015 and 2016.

As well as bringing a new industry to the UK, the pioneering Siemens investment will make a key contribution to meeting Britain’s targets for renewable energy generation and to driving down the costs of wind power.

Leader of Hull City Council, Councillor Stephen Brady, said:

“This is one of several milestones that takes the city a step further towards the delivery of the project and today’s approval is a fine example of how teams across the Green Port Hull project are working collaboratively to bring this scheme to fruition.

“Early engagement with key statutory agencies since the start of this project has led to close working relationships, further strengthened since the approval of the Local Development Order alongside the Humber LEP. This approach has enabled swift and positive responses from all key consultees to the applications determined today, demonstrating the planning system’s ability to deliver a major manufacturing element of a new industrial sector to the city in good time.

“We would like to thank Siemens and Associated British Ports in their continued commitment towards developing manufacturing, assembly, load-out and servicing facilities for offshore wind turbines.”

ABP has appointed the GRAHAM Lagan Construction Group Joint Venture to develop the Alexandra Dock site for the Siemens facilities and enabling work is well advanced. Siemens anticipates that construction of the blade factory and associated facilities will begin this summer.

Mr Dowling added:

“We are looking forward to beginning work on our blade factory and related facilities and to seeing our plans to create world-class manufacturing and assembly operations take shape.

“We have been pleased with the progress that has been made so far, under the direction of our partners, ABP, in moving forward such a huge scheme while minimising impact on the local community.

“As we appoint contractors and begin our own construction phase, we will continue to work very closely with the council and other agencies to limit disruption while bringing this transformational investment to fruition.”

Siemens is a significant UK employer with 13,760 employees, including around 2,000 employees in its renewable businesses.

Find out more about the Hull project by visiting www.siemens.co.uk/hull

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)

9 May 2016

[Government confirms £80 million for National Colleges to deliver the workforce of tomorrow](#)

The government announces details of nearly £80 million in funding to support the creation of 5 new National Colleges.

High-level, specialist skills were given a boost today (9 May 2016) as the government announced details of nearly £80 million in funding to support the creation of 5 new National Colleges.

The centres of high-tech training will ensure the UK has skilled people in industries crucial to economic growth – high speed rail, nuclear, onshore oil and gas, digital skills and the creative industries.

Skills Minister Nick Boles said:

This is the investment in high-tech skills that businesses are crying out for. We have made it a priority to work with employers to deliver high-quality, technical education and clear routes to employment that deliver economic growth and create opportunities for our young people, and enable our existing workforce to upskill and retrain for the jobs of the future.

The National Colleges have been designed with employers, for employers. They will produce the skills needed now and into the future to ensure the UK remains innovative and at the forefront of pioneering industry.

The 5 National Colleges are as follows:

- National College for High Speed Rail (hubs located in Birmingham and Doncaster)
- National College for Nuclear (hubs located Somerset and Cumbria)
- National College for Onshore Oil and Gas (hub located in Blackpool)
- National College for Digital Skills (hub located in London; Tottenham Hale and Whitechapel)
- National College for the Creative and Cultural Industries (hub located in Purfleet, Essex)

The Colleges, which were confirmed in the Spending Review, have had to pass a detailed examination of their business plans and capital proposals to receive government funding which will help with the construction of new buildings and the purchase of equipment. Local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP), industry bodies and businesses are also contributing towards the Colleges.

Development of the Colleges is firmly underway. The National College for High Speed Rail held ground breaking ceremonies at its Doncaster and Birmingham sites earlier today.

The first Colleges will open in September 2016 with the network fully operational by September 2017.

Notes to Editors:

The National Colleges will focus on delivering high-level technical skills at levels 4 to 6.

1. The National College for Digital Skills and the National College for the Creative and Cultural Industries will open in September 2016. The National College for High Speed Rail, the National

College for Onshore Oil and Gas and the National College for Nuclear will open in September 2017.

2. The National College for High Speed Rail will receive £40 million from BIS for the construction of new buildings and equipment. Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, and Sheffield Combined Authority and the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP are providing £6 million each and industry is donating approximately £5 million in equipment.
3. The National College for Nuclear will receive £15 million from BIS for the construction of new buildings and equipment. The South West LEP is providing £3 million and Bridgwater College is providing £4.5 million.
4. The National College for Digital Skills will receive £13.4 million from BIS for refurbishment and equipment. The Greater London Authority (GLA) and the London Enterprise Panel is providing £18.2 million.
5. The National College for the Creative and Cultural Industries will receive £5.5 million from BIS for the construction of new buildings. £500,000 will be provided by Creative and Cultural Skills and industry is donating approximately £1 million in equipment.
6. The National College for Onshore Oil and Gas will receive £5.6 million from BIS for equipment, with equipment donations from industry.

Humber Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

2 November 2015

[National College for Wind Energy calls for expressions of interest from skills providers](#)

The proposed National College for Wind Energy (NCfWE) Shadow Board is calling for expressions of interest from skills providers who can offer specialist facilities and qualifications as part of developing the required national partnership. Board member, the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is acting as facilitator in this process.

Seven National Colleges offering specialist training provision with a sector focus were announced by Government last year. The timescale for the developments of all National Colleges is expected from the Department of Business, Innovation & Skills during Quarter 4 2015 and work on the NCfWE is continuing apace.

The Humber was identified as the ideal location for the UK's first National College for Wind Energy. The decision to base the College headquarters in this area, which has established itself as the UK's Energy Estuary was made owing to factors such as its proximity to offshore wind farms, major industry investments, its deep water estuary and large ports, incentives for development and the pre-existing infrastructure.

Shadow Board Chair, Maf Smith commented, "The proposed National College for Wind Energy will be established on a hub and spoke model with the "hub", i.e. the headquarters, being based in the Humber region. The "spokes" will be skills providers located throughout the UK, with the aim of addressing skills challenges and amalgamating the expertise and facilities of existing providers to provide best value for the investment being made".

In order to ensure that the provision of specialist facilities and qualifications for the wind and marine energy sector is set at the right level, the National College's Shadow Board is seeking to map current provision against industry requirements. We are therefore inviting expressions of interest from appropriate skills providers who may latterly become a 'spoke' partner to the college.

Providers wishing to submit an initial expression of interest are asked to provide information including their location; existing delivery of qualifications relevant to the wind and marine energy sector supply chain and an overview of their specialist facilities.

Interested organisations are asked to submit their expression of interest response no later than 5pm on Monday 16 November.

HFC Catch Limited

January 7th, 2015

[UK's first ever National College for Wind Energy will tackle skills gap and create jobs](#)

The Humber Local Enterprise Partnership and RenewableUK are today welcoming the announcement by the Business Secretary, Rt Hon Vince Cable, of the development of a National College for Wind Energy. It will be the first National College dedicated to renewable energy in the UK.

The National College, to be based in the Humber area, will provide a 'hub' for skills, training and education initiatives. In addition, there will be a network of partners providing education and training across the UK. The primary focus of the Humber 'hub' will be offshore wind, where a large growth in skills is needed. The National College will also provide capability to support onshore wind and marine renewables.

The launch of the college is the result of a proposal to Government led by the Humber Local Enterprise Partnership and RenewableUK; the project is key to capitalising on the enormous potential that offshore wind plays in the Humber region and elsewhere in the UK.

It is envisaged that the college will open its doors in late 2016, and will award new and mature students with professional qualifications and short courses (post A-level equivalent) in addition to bespoke programmes as directed and sponsored by employers.

Wind Energy is a growing industry with employment is expected to increase thereby greater demand for professional engineers, technicians, and a multitude of other roles, across the UK. Significant investment is

needed to develop these skills to ensure the sector is able to meet its requirements. Recent research provides evidence that employers are already experiencing skills gaps across wind and marine energy technologies, with 37% experiencing hard-to-fill vacancies. A National College for Wind Energy will provide the long-term strategic focus to address these shortages.

Skills Minister Nick Boles said:

“Helping young people acquire advanced technical skills for the industries of the future is vitally important. National Colleges are an essential part of our long term economic plan.

“The Humber is the natural choice for the HQ of the new National College for Wind Energy. Through the College, Government and industry are investing in the people who will create local jobs and prosperity for the region.

“By arming people with the skills they need to be energy specialists we can provide career opportunities for thousands of young Britons, boost the competitiveness of British firms and help the UK economy remain strong for the future.”

Lord Haskins, Chair of the Humber LEP commented: “It is excellent news for the region that our bid to establish a National College for Wind Energy in the Humber has been successful. This is a major step forward in achieving the ambition we set out in March for the Humber to be the national centre of excellence for energy skills, and builds on the other investments we are making training facilities. We worked closely with Government, industry and education to develop the National College proposal which will focus on delivering excellence in teaching, learning and assessment, underpinned by quality standards set by employers to reflect the sector’s skills needs.”

Mike Parker, Chair of the Humber LEP Employment and Skills Board added:

“The Humber is already recognised as the Energy Estuary with twenty five percent of the UK’s energy generation connected to the area. Our economy is growing; building on their Grimsby presence, Siemens are set to locate in Hull, Eon, Centrica, Vestas and Dong Energy have chosen the south bank of the Estuary as their preferred sites. Supporting the generation companies is a growing supply chain of maintenance and facilities management. Wind Energy generation is still relatively new and demands higher level skilled employees, the lack of an able qualified workforce has led to the sector facing a serious challenge in filling vacancies. Having a dedicated National College will be a major step forward in helping the UK to bridge that gap.”

RenewableUK’s Chief Executive, Maria McCaffrey, said: RenewableUK’s Chief Executive, Maria McCaffrey, said: “This is an exciting day for wind energy in this country and a cause for celebration. This unique college will provide cutting edge training for a generation of young people looking for a springboard into renewable energy. We need to ensure we maximise the extraordinary rise of green jobs in the UK; the growth in

much-needed wind projects onshore and offshore has created a real demand for new skills and training as the sector goes from strength to strength. The college's launch means we are one step closer to ensuring our global lead in offshore wind is reflected in home-grown skills as well

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)

11 December 2014

[Vince Cable today announced employer-led National Colleges to develop advanced manufacturing, digital, wind energy and creative skills.](#)

Business Secretary Vince Cable today (11 December 2014) announced a new wave of employer-led National Colleges to help the UK develop world-class skills in the advanced manufacturing, digital, wind energy and creative industries.

The 4 colleges will cater for some 10,000 students by 2020, enabling bright young people to gain professional qualifications up to postgraduate level, and helping the UK close productivity and skills gaps with its international competitors.

Up to £80 million of capital funding will be matched by employers over 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017 – a potential total investment of £160 million by 2017.

Speaking in Sheffield, a major location for the new National College for Advanced Manufacturing, Vince Cable said:

“Economic growth is underpinned by technological innovation, a strong manufacturing sector and scientific excellence. The UK can no longer afford to lag behind countries like France and Germany, which have invested heavily in technical skills at the highest level for generations.

“The National Colleges will function on a par with our most prestigious universities, delivering training that matches the best in the world. They will help build a strong, balanced economy that delivers opportunity across all regions in the UK.”

The 4 new National Colleges mark an important step in the government's drive to place vocational training on a par with higher education, ending the outdated divisions that have held individuals and companies back.

The National College for Advanced Manufacturing

The government will work with the High Value Manufacturing Catapult (HVMC) and the EEF, the manufacturer's organisation, to establish a National College with major facilities at the AMRC in the Sheffield region and the MTC in Coventry. The Catapult leads innovation in manufacturing – its role will ensure training equips learners for the future economy. The National College will be established as a network of hubs that will identify and work with the best established providers nationwide.

The National College for Digital Skills

Digital skills are increasingly relevant not just to Tech firms, but to the success of the broader economy. The college, which will be an entirely new facility initially headquartered in London, is supported by a wide range of industry backers, including Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Deloitte, Gamesys (inaugural partner), IBM, King and the Raspberry Pi Foundation.

The National College for Wind Energy

Headquartered in the Humber with spokes across the country. Placing the hub in the Hull and Humber region ensures that the College will form the backbone of support for the planned growth of off-shore wind in the region.

The National College for the Creative and Cultural Industries at the Backstage Centre in Essex

Managed by Creative and Cultural Skills on behalf of a consortium of employers including Live Nation and the Royal Opera House, the National College will provide opportunities for students to train alongside professionals as they rehearse, record and film.

Each National College will have at least one major central hub – an outstanding centre of expertise which brings together cutting edge equipment, trainers with industry experience, and research and innovation expertise. Colleges across the country will specialise in related skill sets – acting as nationwide ‘spokes’ to maximise their impact across the country.

Five million pounds has been allocated for maintenance scholarships that will enable the strongest candidates from across the country to attend the new National Colleges in 2016 to 2017. Building on this, the government will subsequently develop and introduce new maintenance loans to support students at National Colleges.

The National Colleges announced today will join 3 National Colleges announced earlier this year – specialising in High Speed Rail, Nuclear, and Onshore Oil and Gas.

Notes to editors

1. The trial maintenance loan offer recognises the need to have a package that allows young people to travel to study technical skills at the highest level. In order that the newly created National Colleges can be truly national institutions, the best and brightest from across the country must be able to attend them. These opportunities cannot be restricted to only those students who can afford to support themselves. Government is therefore keen to work towards the introduction of maintenance loans for students from around the UK wishing to study at the National Colleges.

2. The government will provide competitive, time-limited maintenance scholarships (£5 million) to support the very strongest candidates from across the country to attend the new National Colleges in 2016 to 2017.

3. The £80 million of government capital funding available to support the development of National Colleges is in 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017. It includes £50 million of funding set out in the National Colleges call for engagement, and £30 million set aside to support other National Colleges announced in advance of the call.
4. The OECD's 'Skills Beyond School' Report (October 2013) reported a very low level of students enrolled in SFA / EFA funded higher level programmes below degree level; around 41,000 in 2011 to 2012.
5. There is currently evidence of skills gaps in a number of strategically important sectors, with immigrants accounting for 20% of engineering professionals in the oil and gas, aerospace, computing, electronic and optical engineering sectors.
6. Many industries reliant on higher level technical skills face challenges due to an ageing workforce, e.g. 70% of highly skilled nuclear workers are due to retire by 2025.
7. Secretary of State for Business Vince Cable set out in a 23 April 2014 Cambridge speech the agenda for addressing the high level skills gap, to ensure vocational training options are as attractive to young people as traditional academic HE. Higher Apprenticeships expansion, National Colleges, and exploring funding options (including loans expansion, and maintenance for FE) are key to this agenda.

3. Parliamentary Questions

[Topical Questions](#)

Asked by: Diana Johnson (Kingston upon Hull North) (Lab)

We were disappointed in the Humber last year not to be granted the national college for wind energy, especially in light of the fact that renewables are so important to the future of the area. Will Ministers agree to meet me and representatives of the local enterprise partnership to discuss what more can be done to promote a national wind college that might attract local funding?

Answered by: Andrea Leadsom | Energy and Climate Change

Yes, I would certainly be delighted to meet the hon. Lady and colleagues. I can tell her that I recently had the huge pleasure of seeing the new Siemens turbine blade site in Hull, which is fantastic and so impressive. It is a real injection of enthusiasm, new jobs and apprenticeships in her area. We should do everything we can to promote the northern energy powerhouse that is taking off and doing so well.

07 Jan 2016 | 604 cc430-550

[Educational Institutions](#)

Asked by: Umunna, Mr Chuka

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, by what date he expects a network of national colleges to be in place; and what national colleges are planned to be established.

Answering member: Nick Boles | Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Subject to the assessment of proposals, we intend to have a network of industry-led National Colleges operational by September 2017. The National Colleges expected to submit their proposals are as follows –

1. National College for High Speed Rail
2. National College for Nuclear
3. National College for Wind Energy
4. National College for Onshore Oil and Gas
5. National College for Advanced Manufacturing
6. National College for Digital Skills
7. National College for Creative and Cultural Industries

15 Jul 2015 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 6484

Engagements

Asked by: Martin Vickers (Cleethorpes) (Con)

The Government have repeatedly highlighted the importance of northern Lincolnshire and the wider Humber area to the offshore renewables sector. Does my right hon. Friend agree that the recent announcement of the establishment of a national college for wind energy, a university technical college in Scunthorpe and further expansion of existing local training facilities cement the opportunities for local people to benefit from the industry, boost the local economy and highlight the importance of northern Lincolnshire to the northern powerhouse?

Answered by: The Prime Minister

My hon. Friend is a real champion for north Lincolnshire and for Humberside in general. We are determined that this recovery is going to be different from previous recoveries and that we are going to see growth in jobs and investment right across our country. That is why he and others with me have been working hard to bring investment to the Humber, including of course the vital Siemens plant, and why we have seen employment go up and unemployment come down. Because of the local growth deals agreed in July, the Humber local enterprise partnership has over £100 million for local projects, which should create up to 9,000 jobs and allow more than 5,000 homes to be built, so we are determined to see recovery embedded right across the country.

07 Jan 2015 | 590 c267

4. Further reading and useful links

Wind Platform

[*Workers wanted: The EU wind energy sector skills gap*](#), August 2013

Siemens UK

- [Investment in Green Port Hull](#)
- [UK Training Centre](#)
- [*Delivering skills for the 21st century*](#)

Humber Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

[Strategic Focus for the LEP on Skills](#)

Skills Development Scotland

[*Wind Turbine Operations*](#)

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